

Low Cost Classroom Acoustic Modifications

Curtains



Details

- available in a variety of colours, designs and textures
- block-out material can be very effective
- incorporate locally designed print and/or trim



Things to consider:

- Additional fittings (eg: curtain rings, rods)
- Attaching fitting to walls (drilling, asbestos)

Tip: darker curtains make the room 'calmer' for children (especially)

Tip: Curtains can reduce 'unwanted' attention from passing students

Tip: to reduce costs, seek if you can source the material externally and alter locally? Local prints?

Acoustic Tiles



Details

- Velcro/pin/staple compatible (to display student artwork)
- different colours and sizes available (able to cut to size)
- most are fade, stain, moisture and fire resistant
- Can be 'peel 'n' stick' or professionally installed



Things to consider:

- can be tricky to remove once attached

Tip: For the most effective acoustic benefit, minimise covering with classwork.

Tip: Best placed around a reading corner, and/or at the front and back of the room

Carpet



Details

- multitude of styles, textures and colours
- very comfortable for children to sit and lay on
- great for story time and group activities

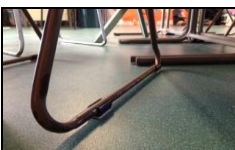


Things to consider:

- consider hygienic and easy-to maintain carpeting options

Tip: think carefully about a cleaning regime, especially if your school is in a sub-tropical location

Chair and Table Stoppers



- Effective on hard floors like lino
- Different types:
 1. snap glides (pictured top)
 2. tennis balls (pictured bottom)



Things to consider:

- certain stoppers might scuff lino floors

Tip: to save costs, you can make your own tennis ball stoppers (but be careful with the Stanley knife!)

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Classroom Noise Monitor



Details:

- stand-alone units and iPad apps available
- built-in sound level meter, alarm sounds if noise-level exceeded
- can be wall-mountable with speakers attached



Things to consider:

- students may like to 'set off' the alarm for fun

Tip: Most effective when used in conjunction with existing classroom behaviour management strategies

Tip: Good to keep out of reach from inquisitive hands

Tip: An extension cord enables better placement within the classroom

Netting and Egg Cartons



Details:

- netting available in different sizes and colours
- can attach netting easily to classroom landmarks with zip ties



Things to consider:

- be careful to avoid ceiling fans when installing
- too many egg cartons can make the netting 'droop'

Tip: Ask staff and families to donate their empty egg cartons

Tip: children can individualise by painting and decorating cartons

Tip: Great way to involve the children in the acoustic process and allows involvement for the children to participate in the conversation about classroom noise.

Carpet Matting and Rubber Floor Matting



Details:

- available in different sizes, colours and textures
- both are relatively easy to clean due to their portability
- tapered edge reduces tripping hazard



Things to consider:

- carpet matting most effective in high traffic areas
- rubber matting most effective at entrance to the classroom

Tip: Think about a regular airing and cleaning regime (especially for the carpet matting)